



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

No. 50

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and loving God, we pray Your blessing on us this day. In our duties, give us courage to press on with hearts open to emulating the forbearance and sacrifice You have demonstrated in Your steadfast love for us and for this world.

As brothers and sisters of Your creation, we pray the faith to leave behind all that has kept us from living into this Your gracious plan. And as we strain toward what is ahead, toward the goal of a higher calling, we pray Your favor.

May all who trust in You receive this Your benediction on today's journey:

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.

May the soft winds freshen your spirit.

May the sunshine brighten your heart.

May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you.

And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.

We offer ourselves to You, praying in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MRVAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUARANTEE WOMEN EQUALITY

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I stand in favor of removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, and I ask the following question: What do the following women have in common?

Teacher Melissa Falkowski, who saved 19 children during the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School;

Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, who lost both her legs in a combat mission in Iraq;

Chemist Alice Ball, who revolutionized the treatment for leprosy;

Joy Harjo, who was the first Native American poet laureate;

Dolores Huerta, civil rights activist;

The nearly 9 out of 10 nurses and two-thirds of the workers at grocery store checkouts and fast-food counters who are women.

What do they have in common? No matter the sacrifice or contribution to society, if you are a woman or a girl in the United States of America, you are not guaranteed equality under the law.

After 245 years since the birth of our Nation, it is time to pass the equal rights amendment.

REDEVELOPING ABANDONED MINE LAND

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Mr. MATT CARTWRIGHT, once again as cosponsor on the RECLAIM Act. This bipartisan legislation focuses on reauthorizing the abandoned mine land fund, or the AML fund.

My district, Pennsylvania 15, has the most abandoned coal mines in the country, and reauthorizing the AML fund will provide opportunities and funding to clean up the abandoned land, not just in my district, but across the Nation.

Coal mining built America. It powered us onto the world's stage. It helped us win two world wars and brought our Nation into the modern era.

The AML is set to expire this year. While we continue to make progress on environmental restoration, reauthorizing the fund is crucial to support clean-up efforts and spur economic development.

Madam Speaker, Congress has a great opportunity to do right by Pennsylvania and other great coal mining States by reauthorizing the abandoned mine land fund, which is not funded by tax dollars but by a fee that has been placed on every ton of coal mined since 1977. Those moneys are sitting there in the Federal Treasury, and we need to reauthorize that abandoned mine land fund to further the redevelopment of the scars of the water and the land in those abandoned lands.

ENSURING EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, every single constitution in the world

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1417

drafted since 1950 has the equivalent of the equal rights amendment, except the United States of America.

Though some might say otherwise, it is clear that women need the equal rights amendment, and we need it now. We need the ERA to strengthen the movement women have been building to achieve paycheck fairness and paid family leave, to prevent discrimination against women who are pregnant in the workplace, and to fight for comprehensive reproductive health for all women and girls.

Today, I will vote for the equal rights amendment to assure that my granddaughters, that women and girls throughout the world and throughout the country, are not only strong, powerful, and resilient, but also equal here in the United States under the Constitution.

HONORING CONNIE LAWSON

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson.

Since 2012, Connie has overseen Indiana's elections and modernized how Hoosiers and businesses interact with the State. Connie championed comprehensive election reforms that included election security and expanded our voting access for Hoosiers.

Connie is a fierce advocate for Hoosiers to be financially literate and has advocated high schools offer a free financial class to all students.

Connie modernized State government departments by implementing an efficient one-stop portal for businesses to register, file, report, and make payments to State agencies.

Prior to being secretary of state, Connie served 16 years in the Indiana State Senate and, before that, was clerk of the Hendricks County Circuit Court.

I congratulate Connie on her retirement. On behalf of all Hoosiers, we will miss your 33 years of dedicated public service.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FARMWORKERS

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Nation's immigrants, the farmworkers who toil in our fields to feed us, and our Dreamers, the exceptional young people who are the promise and future of America.

Our immigration laws should reflect our shared values as a Nation, especially the importance of keeping families and communities together.

In my district in Ventura County, California, agriculture is a cornerstone of our regional economy. Immigrant farmworkers are essential to putting food on America's table.

Because of the essential role farmworkers play in our economy and our communities, I support the creation of an earned pathway to citizenship.

I also stand with our Dreamers, many of whom have known no other home than the United States. Dreamers are the embodiment of the American Dream. Dreamers represent the very best of our country, and they are realizing their fullest potential. Their success is America's success.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Farm Workforce Modernization Act and the American Dream and Promise Act.

HONORING JOEL BENSON

(Mr. CAWTHORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAWTHORN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor an august leader within my hometown community in western North Carolina, a proven entrepreneur and a great business leader who is about to open a second quick-service restaurant in my district, which will employ over 100 people.

Not only will this restaurant employ 100 people, this restaurant will also feed 100 families. This restaurant will help house 100 families.

Not only will these employees get to have the honor of being able to earn a living to provide for their families, but they will also be under the careful tutelage of their new employer, Joel Benson, who everyone in my community will recognize is one of the most influential people in my district. Joel is excellent at maximizing the potential in everyone in his care and in his sphere of influence.

Today, I rise to honor a great mentor of mine and a great business leader who is providing jobs and a strong economy to North Carolina, Joel Benson.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Benson for his service to our community.

HONORING WOMEN OF STEEL

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of Women's History Month to honor Women of Steel, an advocacy-arm of the United Steelworkers.

Throughout the years, women from diverse backgrounds have played an instrumental role in paving the way for women in the steel industry.

Among these remarkable leaders was Ola Kennedy, a resident of Gary, Indiana, who worked for 28 years at Hammond Valve. A devoted community leader, Ola was involved in many union and civic organizations and was one of the founding members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

I also want to celebrate Roberta Wood who, along with Ola, cofounded

the steelworker women's caucus in the Chicago-Gary district of the Steelworkers union. In 1976, Roberta was elected the first female member of the USWA Local 65's executive board and is currently a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to celebrate Women's History Month and recognize the role Women of Steel have played to organize, unionize, rally, and inspire workers to fight for justice. These extraordinary women continue to be fearless, strong, and vocal advocates for more women in leadership and carry on the march to fight for full gender equality in the workplace. I commend these women.

PROTECTING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say how honored I am to be able to file two amendments to the critical reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

My first amendment aims to protect the safety and privacy of survivors by creating a statutory mandate that a victim's safety should be central to housing decisions made by covered housing providers. This amendment will ensure that housing providers do not evict survivors, keep their information confidential, and prioritize their safety when considering admissions, assistance, transfers, and more.

My second amendment is a direct response to an issue in my home State of North Carolina. Sexual assault nurse examiners, or SANE nurses, play a critical role in providing medical care to sexual assault survivors and collecting evidence for criminal prosecution.

Unfortunately, in North Carolina, SANE nurses can be difficult to locate, and some survivors travel to multiple hospitals and have to wait hours to see a SANE nurse. My amendment allows certain grants in the bill to be used to create databases.

□ 1015

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN SAVANNAH

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Patrick's Day in Savannah, Georgia.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade in Savannah began in 1824, and it is now a parade that gathers hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world.

The second-largest St. Patrick's Day in the United States is important for everyone in Savannah, but it is especially important for the Savannah